

comprehensive and less expensive texts available (1,2,3). For the specialist in neurology or neurosurgery, this book will provide the most convenient access to recent diagnostic and therapeutic developments in animal neurology.

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References

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Bolton's Handbook of Canine and Feline Electrocardiography. 2nd Edition. N. Joel Edwards. Published by W.B. Saunders Company, Toronto. 1987. 381 pages.

Electrocardiography has developed into an integral part of the diagnostic work-up of the cardiac patient over the last decade. As an increasing number of private practices are acquiring electrocardiograms, the need for practical texts in electrocardiogram interpretation has increased. *Bolton's Handbook* fills this need in being a clear, concise, well-organized and easy to read manual for every day use by practitioners, technicians and veterinary students.

This second edition is an updated and expanded version of the first authored by Dr. Gary Bolton who passed away during the planning stages of this edition. Dr. Joel Edwards carried on his work, adding his own ideas to this edition. The handbook begins with a brief history and a concise review of the genesis of the electrocardiogram. The recording of the electrocardiogram is thoroughly discussed and illustrated. A practical section on the uses of the electrocardiogram is included. The second chapter discusses a systematic approach to the interpretation of the electrocardiogram. A description of the individual wave forms of the electrocardiogram and their significance in indicating cardiac abnormalities are combined in one section. Cardiac arrhythmias are presented in the third chapter. Again, a systematic approach is emphasized and each arrhythmia is discussed in terms of its associated clinical findings, appearance on the electrocardiogram, management and prognosis. Several examples of each arrhythmia are included. A refreshing addition to the Handbook is the numerous feline electrocardiograms included throughout the text. The chapter on arrhythmias is complete and thorough except for the sections on management. Protocols for control of arrhythmias list appropriate drugs and dosages, but they are brief and simplified. Additional texts should be consulted for in depth discussions of treatment protocols for the various arrhythmias. A fourth chapter discusses the effects of disease and drug therapy on the electrocardiogram such as elec-

trolyte disturbances, antiarrhythmic drugs, anesthetic agents, etc. A section on artifacts and the limitations of the electrocardiogram in identifying cardiac diseases concludes this chapter. An entire chapter is devoted to examples of typical canine and feline electrocardiograms. The sixth and largest chapter is one entitled "Self Assessment" with 160 case studies. A short description of the patient or circumstance is given for each, and questions are asked regarding the associated electrocardiogram. Answers are provided as well as a reference to the corresponding section within the Handbook. *Bolton's Handbook* concludes with a list of common abbreviations and a glossary of cardiac terms. A table of cardiac drugs including dosages for both the canine and feline is also provided.

Overall, *Bolton's Handbook of Canine and Feline Electrocardiography* is a practical, useful tool for the interpretation and application of the electrocardiogram in clinical practice. Although not as extensive and detailed as texts in electrocardiography currently available, it serves as a complete, easy to learn guide needed for use everyday.

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